BAR HILL NEWS

February 2009 Issue 460

The Bar Hill News is also available on audio tape

If you, or someone you know would benefit from this free service, please contact Julie at Camsight 01223 420033

14 February – Valentine's Day
Send a card to the person you love:
Celebrate with a meal – and enjoy!

TESCO'S WIND TURBINES

Tesco's have received planning permission from South Cambs District Council to erect 2 wind turbines on their property. One will go in the car park and another one on the small roundabout near the petrol station.
The Parish Council was, as usual, consulted about the planning application and were concerned about a report which came with the application. This concerned the noise emitted by the turbines. The report indicated that some noise would be heard in Robin Close from the turbine on the roundabout. For this reason the Parish Council requested that this turbine be re-sited away from the residential area.
Because of Parish Council comments, the planning consent has the following condition attached to it:

"Operational noise from the wind turbines, hereby permitted, shall be limited to LA90, 10 minute of 35db(A) at the closest receptors in wind speeds up to 10ms-1 at 10 metres height. Furthermore the sound produced by the wind turbine at the nearest noise sensitive location shall not contain any acoustically distinguishing characteristics such as tonality under all operating conditions. (Reason, to ensure that the approved development does not give rise to undue noise disturbance, in accordance with Policy NE/15 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework 2007)."

The Parish Council would urge residents of Robin Close, Gladeside and The Fox to contact the Environmental Health Department of South Cambs District Council if they consider any noise from the turbines to be excessive or irritating. That Department will then issue residents with a device which records the noise and if this is heard often enough and by several residents then obviously the condition attached to the planning consent is being breached and action would have to be taken.

Please also inform the Clerk of the Parish Council if you are troubled by the noise sufficiently to contact Environmental Health: telephone 780456, email bhillpc-1@btconnect.com, call and see her or write a letter.

Margaret Sellars
Chairman
Parish Council

Copy date for the next issue is 15th February to Margaret Sellars at bhneditor@yahoo.com or see page 2 for other contact details.

BAR HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

07/08 Committee			
Chairman	Mr R Hall	780304	11 Almond Grove
Vice-Chairman	Mr M Avery	781233	34 Acorn Avenue
Secretary	Mr A Pallan	782779	72 The Spinney
Treasurer	To be decided		
Bar Hill News			
Editor	Mrs M Sellars	C/o Parish Council Office	
Advertising Co-Ordinator	Mrs B Waters	201421	77 Foxhollow
Distribution Co-ordinator	Mr M Avery	781233	34 Acorn Avenue

Also: E Wilmer, Kirsten and Paul Goodfield (200228 15 Little Meadow) and Jo Hall (11 Almond Grove 780304)

The Objectives of the Association are to act as an intermediary between the Residents and other parties, to keep residents informed of matters of importance and recreation in and around the Village, and to promote the interests of Bar Hill. Opinions expressed in this publication and not necessarily those of the Association. **Anonymous letters will NOT be published, but names and addresses may be withheld.** However, these may be made available should a written request be received. This is a private publication and may not be reproduced in any way without the prior permission of the Bar Hill Residents' Association Committee.

ADVERTISING

All matters relating to advertising should be addressed to the Advertising Co-ordinator (see above – email to bunty.waters@ntlworld.com)

¼ page adverts cost £14.50 per month and must be submitted by the 1st of the month prior to inclusion.

Maxi ads (£8.25 per month) and Mini ads (price currently under review) should be submitted by 15th of the month prior to their inclusion.

The ¼ page ads are for local businesses and we guarantee publication. This often results in a waiting list and, to help overcome this problem, we provide maxi and mini ads. These appear throughout the publication and we cannot guarantee their inclusion due to restrictions of space.

EDITORIAL

There is no charge for **Articles, What's On, For Sale and Lost and Found,** and these appear at the Editor's discretion. Please submit items by 15th of the month.

All telephone numbers without an area code are Crafts Hill (01954).

All items can be submitted **electronically on disc or to bhneditor@yahoo.com.**

HEALTH CENTRE

Dr Hassan, Dr Ranasinghe and the Practice Nurses

Surgery Hours (tel 780442)

Monday to Friday, 8.30 am – 12 noon and 2 – 6 pm

Out of Hours Emergencies tel 01223 464242

Midwife Monday, 2 pm onwards

Physiotherapist Tuesday 2 – 5.15 pm

Psychiatric Nurse Wednesday, 2 pm onwards

Chiropody Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am – 12 noon, Thursday 2 - 5 pm

Dietitian 1st Tuesday of month, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Orthoptist 2nd Tuesday of month 9 am – 12.30 pm

CAMTAD 4th Tuesday of month, 9 -11.30 am

Child Health Clinic 1st Friday of month, 2 pm onwards

Health Visitors are now based at Longstanton Branch Surgery, Magdalene Close, Longstanton (tel 781855)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

● Church Office 206120 ● Conservative Party (Iris Lay) 205265 ● Happy Hours (Helen Collins) 782203 ● Liberal Democrat Party (Tom Flanagan) 780571 ● Library (renewals and enquiries) 0845 045 5225 ● Parish Council (Leigh Baffa) 780456 ● Police 0845 456 4564 ● Pre-School 782892 ● Samaritans 01223 364455 ● School 273305 ● Social Club 781881 ● Swavesey Village College 230366

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Dear Editor

I have just read with interest, Councillor John Reynolds' news letter where he warns of tough times ahead and "very tough" decisions being needed.

Mr Reynolds is of course preparing us for a substantial rise, well above inflation, in council tax having blamed Central Government for the grant settlement given to Cambridgeshire.

Part of the increase will no doubt pay for the anticipated £32 MILLION cost over-run with the guided bus project.

I read that the County Council has approved a £500,000 boost to voluntary organisations which are facing increased financial pressure. May I ask Mr Reynolds if the Council is considering offering a reduction in council tax for hard pressed OAPs? ALL councils have the authority to make council tax reductions.

Yours faithfully

Michael Boughton-Fox

93 Hollytrees

Dear Editor

I note the advice from the police on page 26 of November's "Bar Hill News". We apparently face a £15 charge if we call a certain phone number and risk losing our vehicles if we remove flyers from the rear windshield. When such reports of scams are circulated, it is always advisable to check them on Snopes.com first. There we find that the phone call for the Parcel Delivery Service scam actually cost £1.50 per minute and typically resulted in a £9 billing. There was evidently no such thing as a £15 connection charge (see http://www.snopes.com/fraud/telephone/pds.asp). Note the past tense. PhonePay Plus, which regulates premium rate phone services, closed down this service in 2005 and stated on its website over a year ago that "You do NOT need to contact us, or the Royal Mail, about this service as it was stopped almost two years ago." Whenever we are asked to call a premium rate number, it is good practice to check www.saynoto0870.com in order to find a landline number - and also to check out the company that is asking us to call them.

The fear of carjackers using flyers as decoys is at least four years old, when the message circulated in Illinois (see http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/carjack.asp). Since then, there has not been a spate of car thefts using this method. It seems unlikely it has been used at all.

Of course, we should be suspicious if we actually do receive cards for deliveries that we are not expecting. Of course, we should not leave our vehicles with the keys in the ignition.

And, of course, we should be very sceptical about viral emails.

David MacLauchlan

Stonefield

Dear Editor

In response to Michael Boughton Fox's rather churlish letter of last month, I can confirm that I shall not be applying for the vacant post of councillor.

I rather took the letter to mean that it is improper for members of the village like myself, or Brian Webb, to ask pertinent questions through this medium.I can only assume that MBF would prefer we operated in some sort of Stalinist state?

As a member of this village, I shall continue to ask questions about issues in the village and I have no regrets whatsoever, for persistently pursuing the removal of the barbers shop. If that irritated MBF, so be it. Maybe from the timing of MBF's service, he was responsible for giving life to the project in the first place and has suffered a pang of nostalgia in its removal? A removal, which I suspect was heartily welcomed by 99% of the rest of the village.

Finally, I would add that I have had contact with three current and former parish councillors in the last two months, who have also heartily rejoiced in the barbers shop's demise and thanked me for keeping the issue at the top of the PC's agenda.

You can't please everyone.

Rod Bishop

The Fairway

Dear Editor

My December issue has arrived. As one of my favourite pastimes is Crosswords etc I turned straight to those pages and found that last month's Anagram was GERICAULT - well, I looked it up in various dictionaries and finally found it on the internet - he's a French Artist - really !! He belongs with some of the artists in the word search I have never heard of. We are not all "Eggheads" and to enjoy these items it would be nice if we could understand the questions, maybe then we could find the answers ???????

These things are surely meant to be fun - could we have some simple ones that folk like me can enjoy?

I do enjoy the rest of Bar Hill News - tells us everything we want to know about the village and then some. Many thanks for that.

Yours

Iris Lay

121 Appletrees

WARNINGS FROM THE POLICE

Any warnings of criminal activity or scams which are published in this magazine come from the Police or from people who have been subjected to such criminal activity or scam.

If a warning comes from the Police the Editor assumes that the Police are dealing with such incidences and that they are therefore current.

Bar Hill Village Hall

Due to work commitments Tuesday night **Kick Boxing** Classes finished at the end of January, If any group or club would like to book that evening please contact me on 01954 782414

During the week we have all the following groups and clubs.

Monday	Helene Jones Dance	3.15 pm - 9 pm
Tuesday	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
Wednesday	Aerobics	6.45 pm - 9.00 pm
Thursday	Weightwatchers	6.00 pm - 7.00 pm
And	Karate	7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
Friday	Noah's ark (multi-birth club) 10.00 am - 12 noon	
And	Tae Kwan Do (martial arts) 6 pm—9 pm	
Saturday	Tae Kwan Do (martial arts) 10 am—12 noon	
Sunday	Bingo—7 pm—9.30 pm	

You can join The Bar Hill Sports & Social Club on the Top Floor at the hall, were you can watch LIVE SPORTS on T.V. Play pool, Darts, Skittles and Cribbage. There is a varied selection of Live MUSIC (see club notices), or just enjoy a quiet drink in the comfortable surroundings. Membership is £8.00 per year and only £1.00 if you are 60 years young.

I look forward to seeing you somewhere in the Village Hall soon.

Iain Martin

Items for sale:

Life-size cardboard cut-out of Elvis in white suit. £10

Empty 1 gallon Bells old Scotch whiskey bottle. Ideal as money box or for charity collection. £10

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2 Floor standing candle holders, black. One 2ft high, one 2ft 8in high £4.

Tel: 01954 780364
email: anne@rwp10.plus.com

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Interested residents are always welcome at our meetings which are normally held on a Monday at the Parish Offices at 8 pm. The next meeting will be on 16 February.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

Is an organisation for women who have lively and enquiring minds. Discussions are at the heart of over 400 groups country-wide, we also have quizzes and themed evenings. Members come away buzzing with ideas.

We meet informally and all women are welcome. Come and discover for yourself that conversation never dries up. We hold our meetings once a fortnight on a Thursday evening.

5th February 'National' Thai evening with food and quiz Venue: Heather's

19th February Mothers – Talk about customs, sayings, and news from the year your mother was born. Venue: Di's

5th March Children's Books – Talk about your favourite Venue: Julie's

Bar Hill group welcomes women of all ages: we would love to see you— do give it a try – it's only £1.00 per evening to cover costs.

If you would like more information, or someone to accompany you to a meeting please do not hesitate to call Bobby Colver on 781662 or Heather Wheeler on 781208. You can also find us on www.nwr.org.uk - it's worth a look!

Cash Reward

Pioneer Car Stereo/Ipod stolen from car in Appletrees on the night of Wednesday 19th November, cash reward on either recovery on items or identity of culprits, contact either Cambs Police or 07878 542602.

Police are warning businesses to be extra vigilant following an increase in diesel thefts.

ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

There is a waiting list for membership of the allotment society but anyone interested is invited to contact Keith Morris on 782441. Any other allotment matters should be addressed to bhallotment@hotmail.com in the first instance.

As a result of hard work by a few members of the Society we again have a couple of plots available to let. Anyone interested in renting space to grow their own produce should contact Keith Morris on 01954-782441.

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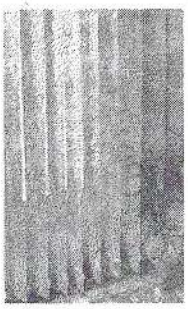

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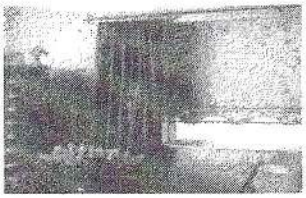

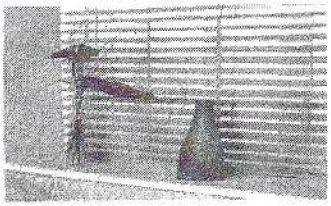

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Emergencies Dial 999 when:

- Lives are at risk/violence/serious injury
- Serious crime is happening
- Criminal still at the scene or nearby

The police operator will need to take your name, address and details of what has happened. This will take time, but it is important to get all of the information from you so that we can send the appropiate resources to you if necessary.

General Phone Enquires

For all non-emergencies, call 24 hours a day:
0845 456 456 4

MINICOM helpline for the deaf and hard of hearing, anywhere in the force area: 01480 422493

RNID TypeTalk is a national telephone relay service which enables, deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing and speech impaired people to communicate, to access the service dial: 0800 515152

Contact online.
www.cambs.police.uk

Via Email
Firstname.surname@cambs.pnn.police.uk

SUMMER FETE – 4 JULY 2009

The theme this year is "international" – food, dance, music, costume, hair styles etc. Kirsten would be interested in ideas, and also from residents interested in participating in the event.
Contract her on 200228 with your ideas or email her on kirstengoodfield26@hotmail.com.

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Wildlife Trust - Huntingdon Area Group
www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk/

Slugs and Snails

Slugs and Snails will be the focus of the next meeting of the Wildlife Trust, Huntingdon Area Group, on Wednesday 11th February 2009 at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton.

Brian Eversham, who is the Conservation Director of the Wildlife Trust, will discuss the ecology and behaviour of molluscs in a wide range of habitats; why they are of interest to conservations and why they should be protected. He will also touch on molluscs and gardening!

Brian has studied slugs and snails since the 1970s, and has bred all but three species of British slugs. He tells us that they are not all as easy to rear as gardeners might imagine. Apparently some species can live for 7 years or more, can grow to over a foot long and become heavier than the smallest British mammals!

Anyone interested in wildlife is most welcome to attend. Admission: £2.00 members; £2.50 non-members. Please visit the web site for more information www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk/ or contact George on 01480 450809.

Friends of Bar Hill Library

The New Year Social held in January was well attended and we all enjoyed the wine and homemade light refreshments.

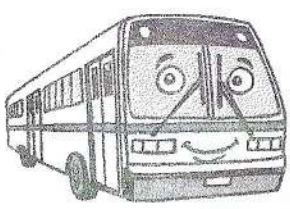
The competitions were most interesting and made us use our little grey cells a bit more.

The book sales last year enabled us to purchase the new central bookstand and pay for some entertaining speakers.

The next coffee morning will be held on **Thursday 5 February from 10 am – 12 noon** and all will be welcome to join in.

Sheila Mason

BUSES ON A SUNDAY



The Citi 5 changed as of 4 January 2009. The Sunday journeys from Bar Hill into the City Centre and from the City Centre to Bar Hill now leave at 15 mins earlier than they did.

The first bus from Tesco is at 08:50 and the last bus is at 17:50.

The first bus from the City Centre is at 09:30 and the last bus back is at 17:30.

BAR HILL COLTS F.C

It has been a couple of months since I was last able to let you know how our teams are getting on. However, due to the bad weather and ground conditions the number of matches being postponed means not many of our teams have been able to play many of their games.

So here is a mid season report on all our teams

MINI- LEAGUERS

Under 6s – Peter and Tim's youngsters- if you have a moment do go down to the village green or Astro on a Saturday morning and watch this enthusiastic team training – they are hoping to play some friendlies in the next few months.

Under 7s – Matt and Andy's Bullets - These lads had their first friendly in December after months of hard training. They have their eyes fixed on an Easter Festival, which will be held on Coldham's Common.

Under 8s – Tim and Kevin's Ravens. This is their first season in competitive football and have done really well winning 6 of the 8 games played so far, scoring 31 goals in the process – well done girls and boys!

Under 9s – Roy and Andy's Eagles This team are finding their feet in competitive football and with 4 wins this season they have scored 29 goals.

Under 10s – Steve's Bombers. This team are learning to play on a bigger pitch this season which tests not only team tactics, it is important that everybody works hard for the team to enable them to perform. They have also won 4 matches with 2 draws putting 37 goals past opposing goalkeepers.

Rangers Match report

Bar Hill Colts U13s v Chatteris Town

With the Chatteris pitch playing more like a WW1 battlefield, it was quickly obvious that the nice one touch passing which we had seen in the Under 13s previous wins was not going to be enough, by itself, to win this game. Most of the first 20 minutes was played bogged down in the centre but on 25 minutes a move involving **Matt Childs** and **Ashley Skelton** put **Dan Paine** through to open the scoring. Just 7 minutes later **Ashley Skelton** put enough pressure on the Chatteris defence to force an own goal leaving it 2-0 at half time.

The second half was a hard slog with **Dan Paine, Johnny Clarke-Hassell** and **Chris Graham** getting shots in and **George Gill** winning several corners. Keeper, **Ben Loraine** did well to hold some slippery shots but wasn't pressured too much due to great defending. It was also good to see **Sean Tipple** making a very effective debut.

Man of the match: **Joel Finbow**

AND NOW THE GIRLS …

Under 13s – Vicky and Linda's Spitfires. Another team learning to play on a bigger pitch. The girls have worked hard in training and this has paid off in matches, winning 2 (with close matches both in the league & cup) scoring 17 goals with leading goal-scorer **Nicole Brown** on the score sheet 8 times.

Under 16s – Ruth' Sapphires. This dedicated group of girls continue to play every match demonstrating fantastic team spirit. They have won 3 of their 5 league matches and **Zoe Fisher's** impressive 12-goal tally contributing to the total of 18 scored so far.

AND NOW THE BOYS …

Under 11s – Rob has trained his boys hard and they have coped well with the move up to 11-a –side on a bigger pitch. With an exciting 6 wins and a draw from 8 games played scoring 48 goals in the process, challenging for runners-up position in their league.

Under 12s – Darryn's Raiders. Off to a good start picking up runners up trophies at the Cherry Hinton 11 a-side tournament. At the half way stage the boys are in 5th place in the A league but with games in hand on 3 of the 4 teams above them. They have played 8, won 5, lost 2 and drawn 1, including two players breaking into the Reps team this season, congratulations **Olly Eden** and **Tommy Dalton.**

Under 13s – Tony's Raiders. What a turnaround for this team, scoring a fantastic 60 goals with 9 wins from the 11 games played, unsurprisingly seeing them at the top of their league.

Under 14s – Justin's Bulldogs. Following promotion last season the boys have faced the challenge of being in a higher league winning 6, and drawing 1, of the 12 matches played with a creditable 26 goals so far.

The Bulldogs demonstrate that it isn't only on the pitch that they enjoy some fancy footwork!

Thanks to all those who have supported our fund raising efforts this season which enabled the team to treat the players to a well deserved ice skating session at Cambridge-on-Ice.

Under 16s – Jairo' Jets

This team continue to do well in a very competitive U16B league sitting at the top of the table scoring 27 goals with 7 wins and 2 draws from the 10 matches played so far.

Under 17s – Barry's Bandits.

This team remain unbeaten in the league so far this season. Their 6 wins and 2 draws, with 39 goals scored has them challenging for top spot in the division.

AND FINALLY…

ADULT FOOTBALL CLUB

All three teams are now improving with the 'A' Team being the pick of the bunch, with three wins after a shaky start to the season.

Website – Don't forget to keep up to date on all the latest news by visiting …

www.barhill-colts.org.uk

BAR HILL COLTS IS A CHARTER STANDARD CLUB

Vicky x

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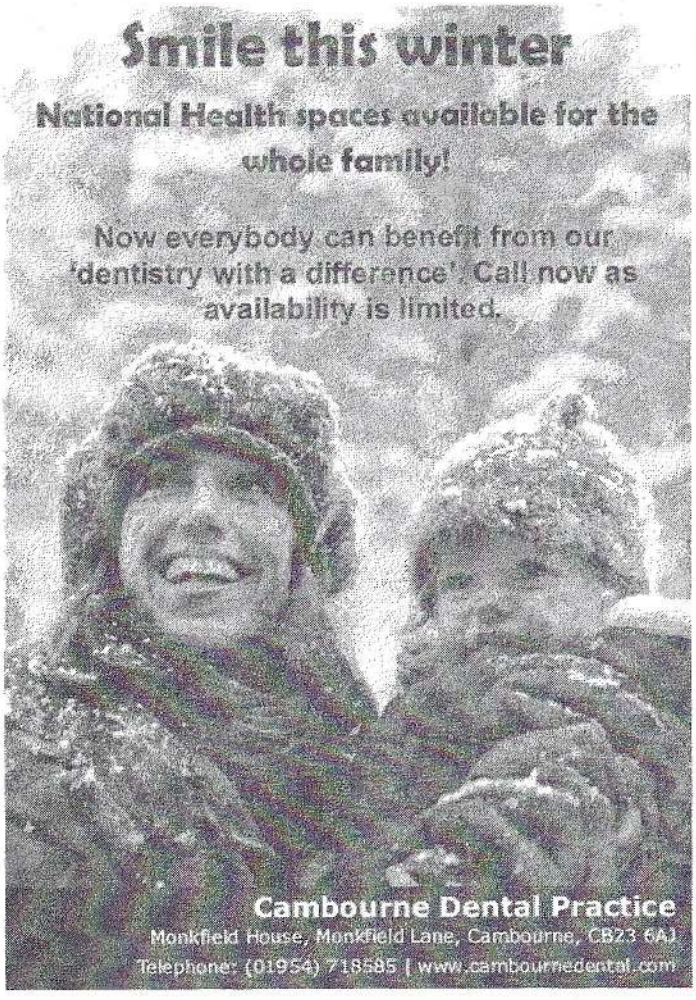
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FIREWORKS!

The bucket collection raised £353. A cheque for £100 was given to St. John's ambulance for their services on the evening, and a cheque for £253 was given to Macmillan cancer charity. Thanks to residents for their support of this event.

8 o'clock Club

The 8 o'clock club meets on the first Thursday of each month in the lounge at the school. (Sorry gents, ladies only.) We try to have a varied programme and for the meetings in this school term we are having the following programme.

5 February Sue Jenkins – Living with a rare genetic disease
5 March My secret kitchen – tickets on sale for birthday party
2 April Birthday party – members only

Future dates:
7 May Talk about Royston Caves
4 June Minimisation and recycling
2 July Garden Party

If you would like any further information or would like to join please phone Barbara on 204171, Adela on 204265 or come along to one of our meetings.

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BIN COLLECTION DATES

4 February	Green bin and boxes
11 February	Black bin
18 February	Green bin and boxes
25 February	Black bin
4 March	Green bin and boxes

Joy Bright

Bob, Christiaan, Dominic and Marcus thank everybody who sent messages and gave us support during a time of great sadness. We know that like us you will miss Joy greatly. When we meet think of her, smile and talk.

"Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives."

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 15th May 2009

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services. You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2009 SIA will celebrate its 35th Anniversary and being that Friday 15th May 2009 is Spinal Cord Injury awareness day and what a better way to raise funds than eating Fish and Chips and raising money for SIA.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives."

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

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Girlguiding UK

What is Girlguiding in Bar Hill?

Girlguiding in Bar Hill is a fun and exciting place to be where girls of all ages enjoy a variety of programmes and activities.

Who are we?

Rainbows are 5-7 year old girls
Brownies are 7-10 year old girls
Guides are 10-14 year old girls

Where and When we meet?

Monday: **Rainbows** 6.00-7.15 pm at Meetings Room, Octagon, Bar Hill Church
Tuesday: **Brownies** 6.30-8.00 pm at Octagon, Bar Hill Church
Wednesday: **Rainbows** 6.00-7.15 pm at Meetings Room, Octagon, Bar Hill Church
Wednesday: **Guides** 7.30-9.00 pm at Meetings Room, Octagon, Bar Hill Church
Thursday: **Brownies** 5.45-7.15 pm at The Studio, Bar Hill School

Our volunteer leaders put together exciting programmes for the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Leaders are 18 plus – New adults always welcome!!!

Carol Service

We held a very successful carol service in December with record breaking attendance. All girls took part in different scenes from a play – the Rainbows as Angels, the Brownies as Shepherds and the Guides as Kings. £70 was also raised from refreshments and craft stall for projects supported by Sangam, the Guiding Centre in India which Claire Lloyd, Rainbow guider with 2nd Rainbows will shortly be visiting.

2nd Bar Hill Brownies

We enjoyed a busy term finishing 2008 with a trip to the iceskating rink on Parker's Piece. The girls also enjoyed badgework (Seasons badge, Agility and Disability Awareness) and going swimming amongst other activities.

This term, we will be 'Changing the World' a scheme run by Girlguiding UK in collaboration with charities to raise money and awareness for their different work and projects. More information can be found on http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/changingtheworld/ More news on this to follow in the coming months! This term we will also be doing our Fire Safety and First Aid badges along with our Environment badge. We will be going on outings and celebrating Thinking Day with international activities and learning about guiding around the world.

If you would like to join us contact Philippa Gebrekiros – 01954 270275 – email pah41@cam.ac.uk

Happy New Year from ***Rosie in Stitches*** *and Friends of the Rosie.* With your help we raised over £1,000 in 2008 from our sale of handmade toys and clothes for children and £4,000 from our Tea Bar at the Rosie Outpatients clinic. All the money raised is spent on medical equipment that Addenbrooke's does not provide. Come along to one of our stalls to see our selection of clothes and toys:

Tea Bar Outpatients, Rosie Hospital, Cambridge
Addenbrooke's Outpatients March 2009

Do you have difficult men to buy gifts for at Valentines and Father's day? Through www.easyfundraising.org.uk/forh you can book a Ferrari F430 experience and save £10 or a Porsche 997 Turbo Experience and save £15. While you're online treat your feet to a new pair of shoes and get 10% off all non-sale items at Hotter Shoes when you use the eVoucher at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/forh .

As well as helping us to raise funds, when you shop through the easyfundraising site you can benefit from other exclusive special offers that you won't find anywhere else. There are many free offers available - too many to list here - so visit the Special Offers page at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/forh for more details and to find the eVoucher codes.

You can now raise funds for Friends of the Rosie Hospital whenever you use the Easyfundraising search site at http://forh.easysearch.org.uk we will receive 1p for every search and if you make just 10 searches a day, you could raise £25 a year.

If you can improve our website, provide transport for our volunteers or display a small selection of our wares please contact a member of the committee, details are given on our website at www.rosieinstitches.org.uk.

Thank you."

Yours sincerely
Avril Williams
Rosie in Stitches
for Friends of the Rosie
Registered Charity Number 1036092
www.rosieinstitches.org.uk
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/forh
http://forh.easysearch.org.uk

Do you have a friend or relative that is looking for voluntary work at the moment - please ask them to have a look at our volunteering page at www.rosieinstitches.org.uk/volunteering.htm

Football Project

The pitch is suitable for football and many other sporting activities such as mini tennis, hockey, bowls, volleyball and multi sports - it's a great venue for birthday parties. If you wish to find out more about hiring the facility then contact our Bookings Secretary, Julie Marin on 781838.

The officers of the Management Committee are:

Chairperson	Alan Hewings
Secretary	Paul Thorby
Treasurer	Jairo Marin

THE FITNESS CLASS

Mondays 7.30-8.30pm, The Church, Bar Hill

Do you want to loose weigh, Get Fit, Tone Up? Scared some exercise classes will be too intimidating & hard to pick up? The class specializes in ladies fitness & is designed to be very easy to pick up whilst being challenging enough to suit any fitness level. It incorporates Aerobics, Pilates, Swiss ball, Boxercise, Resistance and Cardio exercise. £4 per class(10 for £32).

OVER 55S CLASS,

Tuesdays, 10-11am. The Church, Bar Hill

Aimed at a pace suitable for the older adult to improve and maintain fitness, strength & mobility. £2.75 per class(10 for £24)

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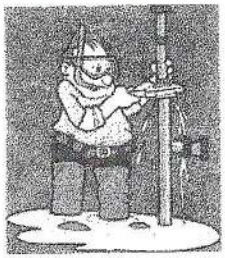

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCHOOL NAMED TOP OF THE CLASS IN SPORTS AWARDS

Swavesey Village College has been named as top of the class in the prestigious BBC East Sports Awards, which were presented during a glittering ceremony at Duxford Imperial War Museum on Monday, December 8. The Village College was named as School of the Year, beating off competition from schools in Essex and Bedfordshire. The award was in recognition of the work of Swavesey VC's PE department - in particular the wide range of opportunities to participate in all forms of high quality PE provided to students within the school.

Extra curricular sport above and beyond the school day and the commitment to school club links with the local community, were also highlighted.

John Reynolds

JETPATCHING SYSTEM ROCKETS ROAD REPAIRS IN RURAL CAMBRIDGESHIRE

A high-tech and green jetpatching system to repair rural roads in Cambridgeshire has seen a massive saving in time and money as well as improvements in the work itself.

The new environmentally friendly technique has been used in South Cambridgeshire and has meant that 70 per cent more work has been completed compared with using the old system.

Jetpatching is better for rural roads than normal techniques and is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's use of innovative ways to maintain roads, especially in rural areas.

The process involves a stone and emulsion mix being applied directly to the road through a blower which also compacts the material meaning no roller is needed. There is also no need to heat the material so the process also saves on energy.

This new process follows other initiatives by Cambridgeshire Highways to reduce carbon emissions. Highway waste material is already re-used or recycled and infra-red patching techniques have proved successful in reducing costs and carbon emissions.

For more information log onto www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

John Reynolds

Sports and Social Club

For up to date information on what's happening at the Social Club visit www.bhssc.org.uk or ring 781881.

Bar Hill Childminders

Thinking of going back to work or fancy some 'me' time? Then why not leave your child in a friendly family environment with a childminder who is registered with Ofsted, is an NCMA member and fully insured. We offer a wide range of activities including trips to parks and toddler groups, crafts, music, stories, cookery and much more!

Come and meet us at **Coffee and Kids** in the Octagon on Thursdays between 10.00 am and 11.30 am for a coffee and a chat.

Childminders with current vacancies are:-

Melanie	Call for more details	204496
Terri	Part Time	780458
Karen	Part Time 0-5 and before/after school 781151	
Sharon	Full and Part Time	07800935263
Jacky	Part Time	780249
Kirsten	Full and Part-Time (0-5 and 5-8) 200228	

Coffee and Kids

Run by Bar Hill Childminders for parents/carers/ childminders of babies and pre-school children. Come and join us on Thursdays (term time only) in the Octagon (Church buildings) from 10 am – 11.30 am. £1.80 per adult. Price includes coffee/tea/hot chocolate for adults, soft drinks and healthy snacks for children. We have a large range of indoor and outdoor toys and a safe soft play area for babies. Call Debbie on 201739 for more details.

SOUTH CAMBS DETAILS

Should you need to contact South Cambs DC these are the details:

Tel: **08450 450 500**
Contact Centre
Mon - Sat: 8.00 am - 8.00 pm
Offices:
Mon - Fri: 8.30 am - 5.00 pm
Fax: 01954 713 149
Email: scdc@scambs.gov.uk

Call the waste and recycling service **08450 450 063** Monday to Saturday 8am - 8pm or visit the SCambs website to find out about Recycling, Wheeled bins or What goes in which Bin

My contact details are: bunty.waters@ntlworld.com 01954 201421/07734 690580

Little Acorns Pre-school.

Little Acorns is situated in the SPARC building next door to the primary school. We are open every day, both morning and afternoon. A lunch club session is also available each day. Our opening times are 9-11.30 am and 12.30- 3 pm. Children may attend from their second birthdays.

We provide a variety of learning experiences, both indoor and out. Children are encouraged to be creative, and to explore and investigate the things in their world. All of our staff hold a childcare qualification and are trained in first aid and child protection.

We offer a 'places for all' policy. Every year we offer free or subsidised places to a number of families. If you feel that you would like to speak to us about this, we would love to hear from you. Please phone Sally on 201074 or drop in anytime. If you would like to book sessions please ring Gail on 203229 or on our pre-school number 07851803083.

We will be holding regular open days at the start of each term for our new starters (who will receive an invitation nearer the time). If you are interested in coming to look around too, please phone us to book your place, or if you would like us to send you some information and a registration form. Alternatively you may prefer to e-mail us at s.gedny@ntlworld.com

Hiring the rooms

The pre-school room is available to hire for parties and functions. The current charge is £7.50 per hour (a minimum charge applies). Booking forms are available in the lobby area or by calling Janine on 07879613731.

Bar Hill Primary Schools PTA
Presents its

Children's Nearly New Sale

Want to pick up a bargain?
Then why not come along to
Bar Hill School on
Saturday 28th March 2009
From 1.30 PM until 3.30 PM

Entrance 50p per Adult

If you have indoor toys, outdoor toys, pushchairs, highchairs, Children's Clothes, etc to sell it's easy.
All you need is a seller pack and number.
Call Kirsten on 01954 200228 or email BHPTA@LIVE.CO.UK before Friday 13th March 2009 for a pack.

How it works, simply drop off your items in the morning and then collect in the evening, as explained in the seller pack. You keep 80% of the sales price and 20% goes to Bar Hill School

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or email: oasisgroup@ntlworld.com

(All materials or skips etc will need paying for by the person having the work done)
If you would like to become part of this initiative and make a difference in our community please contact us.

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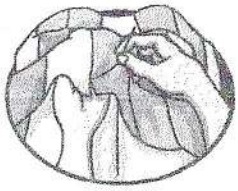

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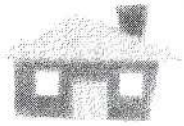

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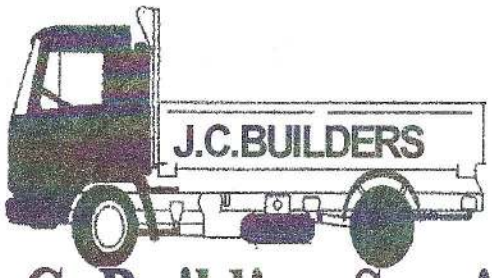

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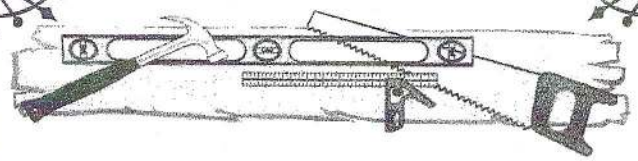

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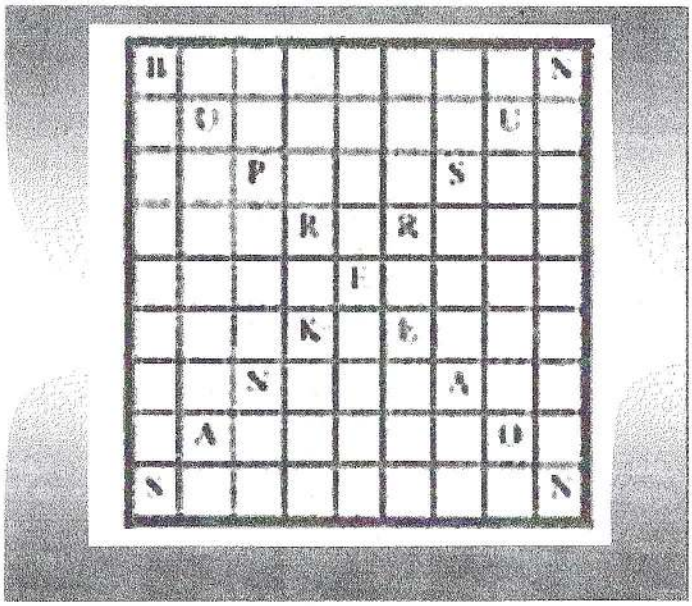

TREE ANAGRAMS—001

Re-arrange the clue letters to form NINE trees in the grid above, reading left to right, in alphabetical order.

1 BUNK TORCH
2 BUTT TUNER
3 SUP CURSES
4 RE REVENGE
5 ENRAGE VIP
6 BY HER RACK
7 A SAND ARCH
8 TO WIN SODA
9 SHOT LONER

Did you get the answers from December's wordsearch?

Bigamist, Cynic, Driller, Felon, Jovialist, Luxurist, Punch, Quaker and Waltzer

Anagram: Plutocrat

Parent and Toddler Group

Bar Hill parent and toddler group is a welcoming and friendly charity group run by a committee of parents to provide play and socialising for children (and parents) from 0-4 years of age. The sessions run Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.45 to 11.15 am during term time and are held in the Octagon. Both sessions provide a wide range of activities which include arts and crafts, puzzles, dressing up, role play and a wide range of outdoor toys (weather permitting).

The cost of each session is £1.90 for the first child and £1.00 per sibling up to a maximum of £3.00 per family or childminder. Under ones are free if accompanied by an older child. This fee includes refreshments for both parent/carer and children.

For any more info' please call Hanna on 200232 or Lisa on 201902.

District Councillor Roger Hall's Report

Rubbish collection over the Christmas/New Year period

The arrangements for rubbish collection over the Christmas/New Year period passed off without any problems. The difficulties encountered in 2007 were not replicated and only one complaint (from a predictable source) was received.

Office opening between Christmas and the New Year

A two-year experiment of opening South Cambridgeshire Hall between Christmas and the New Year was welcomed by the public, with a larger-than-expected stream of residents arriving at the Council offices. At any one time, more than half the Council staff was present, with some offices almost fully manned and others unoccupied.

Council Tax

The increase in Council Tax this year is likely to be 4.9%, with other authorities in the area between 4.90% and 4.99%. This increase, well above the rate inflation, is because government grant this year will be 0.5%; with last year's having been only 0.4%, this is putting severe strain on Council finances. The increase in government grant will be one of the worst in the country. Had it been the average for shire district councils of 2.83%, then no increase would be necessary.

Weathering the storm

This is a guide, available on www.weatherstorm.org.uk to national and local organisations that can advise and support businesses through the economic downturn. It has been compiled by Cambridgeshire Together, a group of the county's most influential organisations. Although any economic downturn is expected to be shallow in Cambridgeshire, it's our priority is to ensure that everyone affected is supported during the difficult times ahead.

Insofar as South Cambridgeshire District Council is concerned, the 'crunch' has yet to have a clearly discernible effect, with Council Tax receipts still running at 99.1%.

Roger Hall

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Bar Hill Parish Council
Parish Council Offices
(Near the Health Centre and Octagon)
Tel: 780456
Email: bhillpc-1@btconnect.com

Parish Council Web Site – www.barhillpc.org.uk.
This will keep you up to date on current affairs in the village including meeting minutes and agenda.

For all you regular walkers out there
The County Council has produced a Countryside Access Map entitled "Walks and Rides around the Northstowe Hundred". A very interesting history of the local countryside and lots of pleasant walks and bike rides for you enthusiasts. If you would like a map please call in to the office as I have been given a substantial supply.

Police Surgery
For the time being the Police Surgery has been put on hold due to lack of residents wishing to attend. If this changes in the future I will let you know.

Casual Vacancy for Co-Opted Parish Councillor
Due to a recent resignation a further vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. If you think you could make a difference to the village, please contact me for further information.

Litter Picking Day
It's that time of year again. I thought I would give you all plenty of notice as we had such a great turn out last year. This year's Litter Picking Day will take place on Saturday 4th April at 10 am outside the Parish Council office. Picking sticks, gloves and bin liners will be provided: all you have to do is provide an hour of your time!

Parish Council Meetings
The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 19th February at 7 pm in the Parish Council Office and all members of the public are welcome to attend.

HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Streetlights: 0800 253529 give the CC No. (written on post).
South Cambs District Council: (01223) 443000
Dog Fouling (01223) 443012.
County Council (damaged paths and roads): (01223) 717111

Leigh Baffa
Parish Clerk
Tel: 01954 780456
Email: bhillpc-1@btconnect.com

ALL SKATEBOARDERS—The Parish Council is trying to obtain funds to help repair the skate ramps. The Council cannot apply for the funds—IT HAS TO BE THE PEOPLE WHO USE THE RAMPS. If you use this Skatepark and want it to continue, please contact Sue Jenkins to arrange a meeting. It's your Skatepark—if you want to have it you need to show that you do by attending a meeting: Sue Jenkins can be contacted via the Parish Council Office—details just above here. Tell her when you can meet her. Parents—please show your young person this notice!

Bar Hill THE PLAYSTATION Out of School Club

SPARC Building, Gladeside
Tel: 07883 739368 during Club hours

We are situated in a purpose built building next to the School, with direct access from the playground. We provide Childcare for children aged 4-11 in a safe and caring home-from-home environment, with trained and experienced staff.

Our sessions provide the children with a wide range of activities from pool to computer games, dressing up to craft, and lots more or, if they wish, they can chill out on our comfy sofas. We can also use the safe environment of the school playground for outdoor activities.

During the holidays we have themed activities, which the children are involved in choosing, as they are with many other issues, such as outings etc – as it is their Club, they even chose its name. The children are given a snack, such as pasta or filled pittas, followed by a biscuit and fresh fruit. We also make birthday cakes to celebrate each child's birthday, which are shared.

We are registered with OFSTED, and we accept employers' childcare vouchers.

Session Times
After School 3.10 pm – 6 pm Monday – Friday
School Holidays 8.15 am – 6 pm Monday – Friday
Closed on Bank Holidays

Hiring
These rooms are now available for hire to the community, at the discretion of the Committee. If you would like to hire The Playstation rooms please contact Patsie on 201079. If you would like to hire the pre-school room please contact Janine Swanser on 203095 or 07851803083. The kitchen and garden areas may also be hired out for an additional charge.

The current charges are:

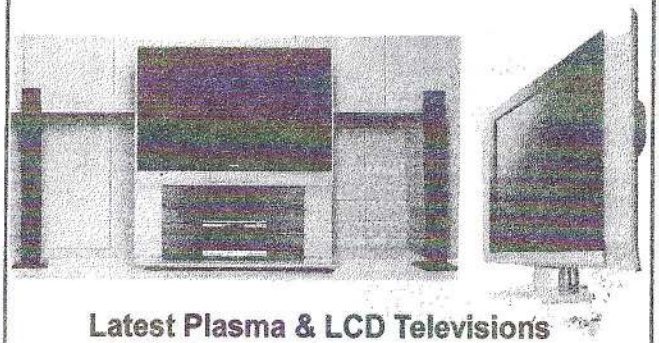
	Charge/hour	Fixed price
Little Acorns main room	£7.50	
Playstation main room	£7.50	
Kitchen		£10
Garden		£10

There is a minimum hire charge of £25.

We currently have some vacancies, both after school and during the holidays. If you would like more information, an information pack or to arrange a visit, call Patsie on 201079 or 07921 541549.

Patsie Ostler
Bar Hill Out Of School Club

ANY QUESTIONS?
The Residents' Association would like to know if residents are interested in the village hosting the radio programme **Any Questions?** Please contact Roger Hall with your opinion—phone 780304, email roger.hall90@ntlworld.com.



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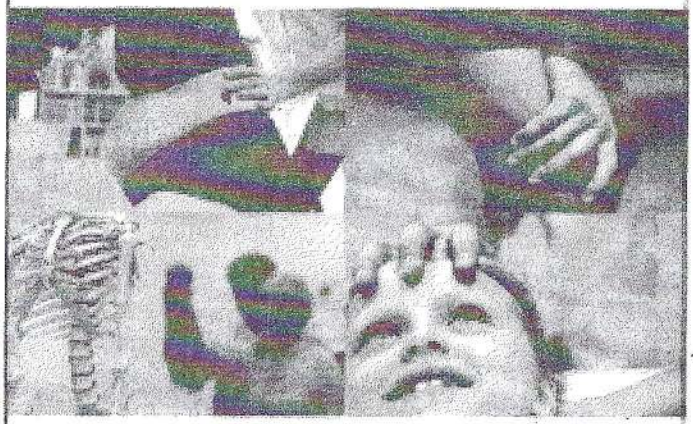

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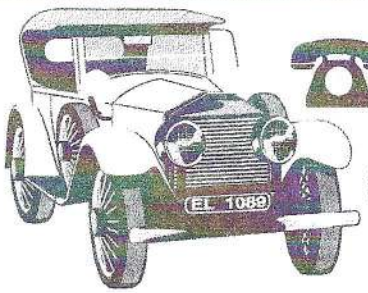
Sackville Way
Cambourne
CB23 6HL



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The Bar Hill Residents' Association

On the 20th of October 1967, less than five months after the first family moved into Bar Hill, twenty-seven residents out of a population of fewer than fifty, attended the inaugural meeting of the Bar Hill Residents' Association. Its remit, decided on at that meeting, included acting as an intermediary between the residents and other bodies (which included the Parish Council after May 1969), raising funds to promote the interests of the village and keeping residents informed of matters of interest to them.

Meeting the objective to keep residents informed of matters of interest to them was considered to be of paramount importance and, in December 1967, the first edition of the *Bar Hill Residents' Association Newsletter* (since 1975 *The Bar Hill News)* was published. To date, 460 issues have been published. Publishing and printing it each month, with the exception of December, is probably the most important task of the Association.

Publishing and distributing *The Bar Hill News,* and organising the Fête and the Fireworks Evening are the three main functions of the Residents' Association today. *The Bar Hill News,* as its title implies, is more than a village newsletter, serving to raise monies for the Fête and the Fireworks Evening and for donating to other village organisations by advertising and being produced by volunteers rather an outside printer. The Fête has now become one of the largest in south Cambridgeshire and still depends, on the previous nine months, on 'much hard work by a devoted few'

As with most organisations, the Association depends on the efforts of 'a devoted few', and **more help is always needed.** This applies particularly to organising the Village Fête, which is undertaken by a sub-committee open not only to members of the main committee but also to representatives of other village organisations and 'independent' members.

Roger Hall
Hon.Chairman
Bar Hill Residents' Association

If you feel you would like to help organise or run these important activities in the village, please contact Roger. The Association is looking for a treasurer—if that is your speciality please get in touch. Members of the Residents' Association meet once a month on a Monday. As Roger states above, the important activities are the Fête and Fireworks evening. Please help to support this important Association.

Contact Roger by telephone—780304 or by email: roger.hall90@ntlworld.com

Bar Hill Pre-School

NOW REGISTERED FOR FULL DAY CARE

Our new purpose built Pre-School attached to the Village Hall has bright and airy rooms and a large fully enclosed garden, providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2 - 5 years. We are also running full day care from the Church Centre. This is reserved for children in the year prior to commencing school.

The aim of Bar Hill Pre-School is to provide high quality care and education by focusing on each individual child's ability, encouraging their development through Birth to Three matters and progressing to the foundation stage curriculum.

Our main emphasis is learning through play.

Your child will be able to explore a variety of activities in an educational setting required by OFSTED. Our experienced, qualified Early Years team Sonya, Karen, Sarah, Pauline, Jacqui, Emma, Clare and Claire supervise our sessions.

Our Key worker system enables the early years team to meet the needs of each individual child through planning their own individual educational plan and next steps.

Subsidised places

We offer reduced sessions rates for parents/carers on Income Support/Working tax credit. We also accept child care vouchers from your employer.

Early Years Funding

We can offer 5 free sessions when your child is eligible, currently the term after their 3rd birthday.

Play Tots Session

9.15 - 10.45 Tuesday

This is our session for babies to Pre-School with Emma our Birth to Three Co-ordinator. We have lots of fun and a large selection of activities, including our new soft play den and toys especially for the tots. Sessions are held on a pay as you play basis. Drinks and healthy snacks are provided.

Rising 5's session

This session is for children in their final year at Pre-School. This is a more structured session preparing them for school entry.

Session Times

Monday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Tuesday	Play tots	12.30 - 3.00
Wed	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Thursday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Friday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00 (rising fives)

We offer a lunch club 11.30 - 12.30 daily

For more information please contact the Pre-School direct on (01954) 782892 during session times or feel free to pop in and see us.

Alternatively contact Sarah our session allocation Co-ordinator on (01954) 781871 before 7 pm weekdays.

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PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

The Group is meeting on the first Friday of each month at 40, Oatlands Avenue, at 9.30 am in future. We would be glad if you would join us at that time. If you are unable to attend but would like the group to include a matter in the programme, please drop a note at the above address with your request.

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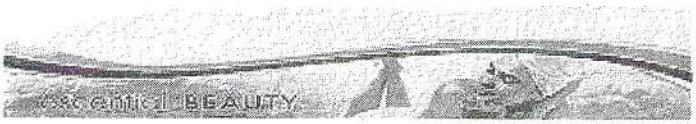
CRICKET CLUB

Calling all cricketers (of all ages and talents; active or lapsed, novice or experienced). Your village needs you!
2009 promises to be a big year for Bar Hill CC as we venture into the unknown territory of running three teams on a Saturday.
Yes, we have taken the plunge of entering a third team in the league, and they will play their home matches at Swavesey Village College.
But we could do with some more players – even if you only fancy playing a couple of games, it could be a big help. The only restriction is that players must be aged over 12.
Please contact one of the numbers below if you are interested.
The thirds will be up against Bottisham-Lode II, Burrough Green II, Cottenham III, Fordham III, Histon III, NCI V and Waterbeach II in their division.
The first XI are targeting a move up to Senior League cricket and will have to overcome Barley, Cokenach, Elmdon, Eversden, Madingley, NCI III, Sawston, Thurlow and USSC to achieve that goal.
The seconds have some journeys ahead as they line up against Abbots Ripton, Bluntisham II, Chatteris II, Longstanton II, StIves III, Somersham II, Wimblington II and Witcham II.
In the cups, Elmdon are the opponents for the firsts in the Cambridge News 20-20 Cup, while the seconds face a local derby at Longstanton II in the Lower Junior Cup.
At the annual meeting last year, Mark Thompson and Paul Stimpson were re-elected first and second-team captains respectively and David Underhay will skipper the new third team. The other big change at the meeting was Steve Plumb stepping down as chairman after five years. David Rush was elected to the post, while Steve becomes a vice-president, with grateful thanks for his hard work over the years.
The rest of the committee was largely unchanged and is as follows:
President: Tony Moffat
Treasurer: Jim Neal
Secretary: Paul Stimpson
Youth manager: Simon Smith
Events co-ordinator: Barry Driver
By the time you read this, our winter net practice sessions will have started, once again at The Perse School in Hills Road. They are every Sunday between now and Easter, from 9.30 to 11 am. Lifts can be arranged – please call one of the numbers below.
Belated thanks to all those who supported our barbecue on November 5 and the quiz night at the Social Club later that month. Watch out for more events later this year.
More details of all our activities can be found on our website at www.barhillcricket.org.uk. You can also contact us via the website.
Phone contacts are:
David Rush (chairman): 07931 125259
Paul Stimpson (secretary): 07870 168121
Simon Smith (youth manager): 01954 200207
Paul Stimpson



Mon 7:30 – 8:30pm
CARDIO AEROBICS
Swavesey Primary School
~
WEDS 7:00 -8:00PM
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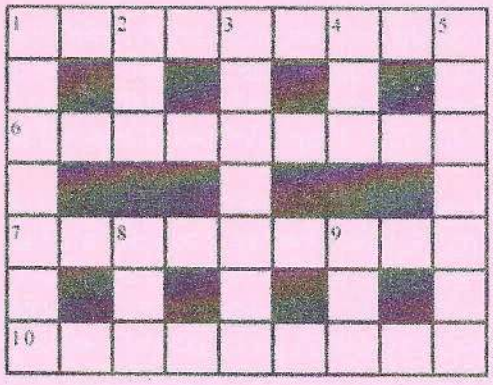
Answers for December

Across

1. alleluiah, 6. mistletoe, 7. nostalgia, 10. Christmas.

Down

1. almanac, 2. lys, 3. lallans, 4. ist, 5. heehaws, 8. sir, 9. gum.



Clues for February 2009

Across

1 & 5 down. Founded by George Fox around 1650,
6. Italian starter, 7. Type of mongoose or wasp, 10. One of a group of criminals.

Down

Overseas representation, 2. Domestic carnivore, 3. Fast train, 4. Affirmative, 5. see 1 across, 8. Domestic fowl, 9. --- West, actress.

Bar Hill Ecumenical Church -

Services for February 2009

A modern church for a modern village. Please join us on a Sunday to find out what happens inside; you will be made very welcome.

Sun 1st	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Anglican) *Amos*
	6:30 pm	The NEWS (New Evening Worship Service)
Sun 8th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship *Josiah*
	6:30 pm	Creative Prayer
Sun 15th	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Baptist) *Isaiah*
	6:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 22nd	10.00 am	All-Age Worship *Jeremiah*
	6:30 pm	Holy Communion
Wed 25th	10.00 am	Holy Communion

There is also a Roman Catholic Mass on Saturday evening at 6.00 pm in the Octagon

People to contact:

The Minister Rev Ruth Adams Tel: 78936
Church Centre Manager Helen Cook Tel/Fax: 206120
.Websitewww.barhillchurch.com

The Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs
Hills Road, Cambridge
(The Catholic Church serving Bar Hill)

Parish Priest: Mgr Tony Rogers Tel: 01223 350787
Deacons: Revd Robert Joyce, Tony Northrop and Tony Sutton
Local contact: Bunty Waters Tel: 201421

Mass at Bar Hill Octagon Saturdays: 6 pm First Mass of Sunday

Masses in the Parish Church in Cambridge

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 am and 12.15 pm
Tuesday 8 am and 7.30 pm
Saturday 6 pm First Mass of Sundays
Also 5 pm at The Ark, Cambourne, and 6 pm at Bar Hill Church Centre

Holydays of Obligation 8 am, 10 am, 7.30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.45 pm (not after Mass)
Saturday 10.30 – 11.15 am, 4.30 – 5.15 pm, 7 – 7.45 pm

Details of other services are published in the weekly newsletter which is available at the 6 pm Mass each Saturday – copies are available in the Church Centre.

WHAT'S ON?

5th NWR Thai evening Quiz
5th Coffee morning – Library
5th 8 o'clock Club – genetic disease
6th Prayer Group meets
11th Wildlife Trust Brampton (slugs and snails)
16th Residents' Association meets
19th NWR – Mothers
19th Parish Council meets

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HAPPY HOURS
The Recycled Youth Club

Whilst our usual news hound languishes in hospital with a broken hip, it falls to a stand-in to write this month's news. **Get well soon, Dennis,** you are greatly missed.

Sixty three of our members attended our **Christmas Lunch** at the Menzies Hotel in December which was a very enjoyable meal plus our raffle and entertainment by Brian East on keyboards. It was lovely to see **Ruby Hunt and Ernie Arnold** able to attend. We were all well looked after by the attentive hotel staff to whom we send our sincere thanks. We would also thank the Parish Council for their donation towards our meal and the Cambridge Building Society for raffle prizes.

At the end of November some of our members had a lovely **Turkey and Tinsel** break at Llandudno, staying in a sea front hotel with trips to Chester and guided tour with Roman centurion, Betws-y-Coed, Anglesey and scenic drive.

The Club recommenced on 5 January and, despite the awful weather, was well attended. However, our numbers have depleted so **anyone wishing to join** us on Mondays would be very welcome.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year and hope those not so well will soon be back to full vigour.

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NICK'S NATURE NOTES

Hope you've all had a good Christmas, and I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

I want to say a big "THANK YOU" to all the people who, throughout the year, have phoned or spoken to me about dead animals or interesting things they've seen.

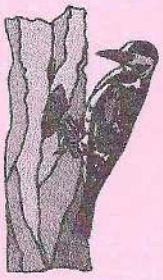
Here are a few "interesting observations" I've seen over the years …

When I was a teenager working on the building sites (no, it wasn't "wattle and daub" walls then) I noticed as soon as the glazier had put the glass in the windows the starlings would come down and peck the putty away from around the glass… I can only think they were after the linseed oil in the putty.

Very early one morning, walking towards the centre of the village, I noticed a lot of rubbish scattered about on the paved area next to Fish 'n' Chicken. A couple of seconds later I saw the reason for it … the crows had got down inside the rubbish bins and were physically throwing the papers, boxes, etc out, then coming out and searching among them for food items – clever, eh!

Walking from my car in Tesco's car park towards the shop I saw loads of starlings running around the parked cars. I watched for a couple of minutes: they were walking along the fronts of the parked vehicles and jumping up and plucking the dead insects, which had got splattered, from the cars. Instant food source.

Over at Fen Drayton Nature Reserve I always look forward to seeing the damselflies and dragonflies every summer. I noticed one or two "stuck" on some of the plants. On closer inspection, damselflies were brushing against the hair-covered stems of Bristly Ox-tongue and, like Velcro, they touched it and became stuck fast, and there they stayed and died. I have noticed this in lots of locations now.



Whilst observing in Madingley Wood one day I saw a great spotted woodpecker land on a branch with something in its beak. It turned out to be a newly hatched check from another nest somewhere close by. It then proceeded to bash it against the branch, like a kingfisher does with a minnow or stickleback, then fly away.

Less than a minute later it returned with another chick in its beak and proceeded to kill that one as well. This happened five times. It was taking chicks from a nest, killing them and then feeding them to its own young. That observation is actually in Birds Brittanica by Mark Cocker and Richard Mabey.

In the winter when food is scarce I've noticed that the fallen branches of mainly ash have all the bark chewed off down to the bare wood - by rabbits. Whether there is something in ash bark, like quinine in willow bark, I don't know, but it's always the first bark eaten, then willow and hawthorn. The rabbits obviously know what they want.

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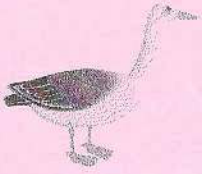
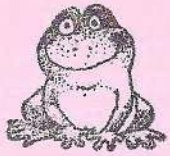


How apt is this today – they hang the man and flog the woman who steal the goose from off the common, but let the greater criminal loose who steals the common from the goose.



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